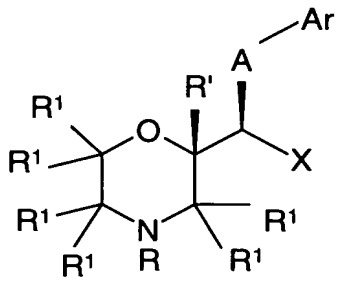
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended): A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A is S or O;

R is H;

Ar is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, hydroxy, CO_2(C_1-C_4 alkyl), pyridyl, thiophenyl and phenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

X is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl); a C_1-C_4 alkyl group; a C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl) group;

R' is H or C_1 -C_4 alkyl;

each R^1 is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

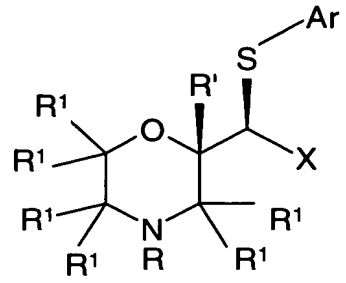
wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

with the proviso that, when A is O, X is a C_1-C_4 alkyl group, a C3 -C6 cycloalkyl group or a CH_2(C_3 -C_6 cycloalkyl) group.

2. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, where A is S.

3. (currently amended): A compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein:

R is H;

Ar is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, and phenyl optionally substituted with substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

X is a phenyl group optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 substituents each independently selected from halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, or O(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

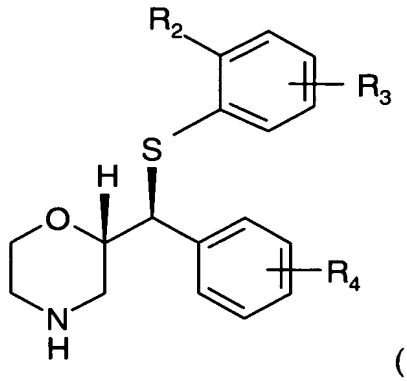
R' is H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

each R^1 is independently H or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1, represented by ~~the~~ formula (II)~~:~~:



(II)

wherein:

R_2 and R_3 are each independently selected from H, C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), S(C_1-C_4 alkyl), halo, and phenyl; and

R_4 is selected from H and C_1-C_4 alkyl;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

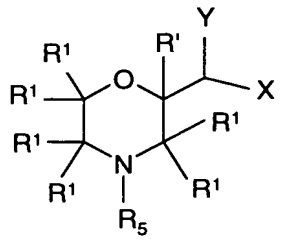
5. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 4, wherein R_2 is selected from C_1-C_4 alkyl, O(C_1-C_4 alkyl), F, and Ph;

wherein each above-mentioned C_1-C_4 alkyl group is optionally substituted with one or more halo atoms.

6. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 4 and 5~~ of claim 4, wherein R_3 is hydrogen.

7. (currently amended): A compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 4, 5 and 6~~ of claim 4, wherein R_4 is hydrogen.

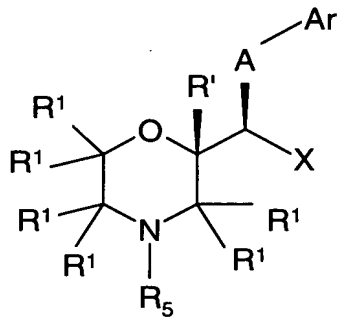
8. (currently amended): A method of preparing a compound ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims~~ of claim 1, comprising reacting a compound of the formula (III):



(III)

where R_5 is a protecting group, ~~e.g. benzyl,~~ X, R' and R1 are as defined in formula (I), ~~in claim 1 above~~ and Y is a leaving group, with an aryl thiol or hydroxy aryl compound.

9. (currently amended): A method of preparing a compound ~~as claimed in any one claims 1 to 7~~ of claim 1, comprising deprotecting a compound of the formula (IV):



(IV)

where R_5 is a protecting group and A, Ar, X, R' and R^1 are as defined in formula (I) ~~in claim 1 above~~ to provide a compound of formula (I), optionally followed by the step of forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

Claims 10-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended): A method for selectively inhibiting the reuptake of norepinephrine in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-7~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (currently amended): A method for treating disorders associated with norepinephrine dysfunction in mammals, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-7~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

17. (currently amended): A method ~~or use as claimed in any one of claims 12, 13 and~~ of claim 15, wherein the disorder is attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder~~, ADHD~~.

18. (currently amended): A composition, comprising a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7~~ of claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient, or carrier.